

REMARKS

Firstly, Applicant appreciates Examiner for allowance of claim 1-14. Secondly, Applicant has amended claim 15 to define it patentably over all the cited references and respectfully submits that claims 15-20 have also been placed in an allowable position, for the following reasons:

Claim Rejections

Claims 15, 16, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Howell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,371,786, hereinafter, Howell)

Regarding claim 15, firstly, Applicant would like to clarify that the spring arm 52 of Howell is adapted to engage with the projection 35 of the handle 32, thereby only resulting in an elastic/ soft stop/resistance at the eve of reaching the open position of the handle 32 (see col. 3, ll. 58 to 67). Furthermore, when the actuation device is released from a closed position, the spring arm 52 and the projection 35 are separated apart, much less to say that said engagement between the spring arm 52 and the projection 35 can automatically urge the handle 32 to a predetermined open position. However, as, inter alia, recited in amended claim 15, the cam pole comprises a cam engaging with the spring member to automatically urge the actuation device to a predetermined open position when the actuation device is released from a closed position.

In Howell, it is clear that only through engagement between the spring arm 52 and the projection 35, it is unrealistic or impossible to let the cam lever be automatically urged to the open position when the cam lever is released from the close position without exterior force applied.

Accordingly, Applicant earnestly asserts that Howell fails to disclose or show the novel feature recited in amended claim 15. Thus, the rejection proposed should now be withdrawn and amended claim 15 should be allowed.

Claim 16 is dependent on amended claim 15 and hence should be allowed.

Because claim 17 is also dependent on patentable amended claim 15, the objection to claim 17 should be moot and claim 17 should be allowed.

Regarding claim 18, it, inter alia, recites "a guiding member is engageable with the actuation device so as to guidably urge said actuation device to be in a stable correct location when said cover is right about to be moved to either said open position or said closed position, thus assuring said cover is correctly located in either said open position or said closed position".

However, Howell fails to disclose or show the above feature of claim 18. More specifically, in re Howell, as clarified above, said engagement between the spring arm 52 and the projection 35 only results in the elastic/soft stop/resistance at the eve of reaching the open position of the handle 32 (see col. 3, ll. 58 to 67). It is, the engagement between the spring arm 52 and the projection 35 essentially is for the "stopping" function rather than the "guiding" function as performed by the instant invention. When the cover 20 is right about to be moved to either the open position or the closed position, namely, between the open position and the closed position, the spring arm 52 and the projection 35 are separated apart, much less to say that said engagement between the spring arm 52 and the projection 35 can supply the function of guidably urging the cam lever 30 to be in a stable correct location.

Accordingly, Applicant earnestly submits that Howell fails to disclose or show the novel feature recited in claim 18. Thus, the rejection proposed should now be withdrawn and claim 18 should be allowed.

Claim 19 is dependent on patentable claim 18 and hence should be allowed.

Because claim 20 is also dependent on patentable claim 18, the objection to claim 20 should be withdrawn and claim 20 should also be allowed.

Claims 1-14 have been kept unchanged for being allowed.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that all the pending claims are patentably distinguishable from the prior art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is now placed in condition for allowance, and that an action to this effect is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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